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Letter dated 14 August 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 August 1998 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex, which contains a letter dated 30 July 1998 from His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, to His Excellency Mr. Ernesto Samper, the then-President of Colombia, in his capacity as Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gürcan TÜRKOĞLU
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 14 August 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the letter dated 30 July 1998 addressed to His Excellency Mr. Ernesto Samper, the then-President of Colombia, in his capacity as Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, by His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the section on Cyprus of the Communiqué adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, held on 19 and 20 May 1998 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

APPENDIX

Letter dated 30 July 1998 from Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, addressed to Mr. Ernesto Samper, former President of Colombia and Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

I would like to refer to the section on Cyprus of the Communiqué adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, held on 19 and 20 May 1998 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia (A/52/970-S/1998/574, annex), and to state that the contents of the section contains biased and distorted views which run counter to the rule of law pertaining to Cyprus and the existing realities in the island.

The allegations regarding "Turkish intransigence and the attempt of the Turkish side to introduce preconditions" are unfounded, as they do not conform to what really happened at the two rounds of direct negotiations held at Troutbeck, New York, and Glion, Switzerland, in July and August 1997, respectively. They overlook the fact that it is the Greek Cypriot side which has made the issue of European Union (EU) membership a precondition to the talks since Mr. Clerides first took office in 1993. Having won the elections that year on a platform based on a total rejection of the United Nations Set of Ideas of 1992, Mr. Clerides has since sought to destroy the very parameters established during the negotiating process, and has succeeded in doing so with the European Union's help, which, at its Summit in Luxembourg held in December 1997, decided to open accession negotiations with the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus.

That the Greek Cypriot side's real aim in the negotiations was not to seek a solution in good faith, but to enhance its EU membership prospects through tactical manoeuvring, was publicly admitted by Mr. Clerides, who stated the following on 6 November 1997:

> "The trick here is to give the impression that you are going to accept a proposal in order to get the other side to reject it and then portray the other side as the intransigent party to the world."

When I challenged Mr. Clerides at the first round of the face-to-face talks at Troutbeck in July 1997, on the question of his side's unilateral and unlawful application for EU membership before a political settlement is reached in Cyprus and the delicate balance between Turkey and Greece over Cyprus is preserved, his answer to me was that the EU issue was a "governmental affair", with which I had nothing to do, since we were negotiating as "community leaders". Similarly, when I took him to task regarding the purchase, from the Russian Federation, of the S-300 missile system and its impending deployment in the island, his reply was that as the "government of a sovereign state", his administration had the right to take whatever measures necessary in order to "defend itself". It is this mentality which totally ignores:

(a) The equal rights and status of the Turkish Cypriot side in Cyprus;

(b) The balance between Turkey and Greece over Cyprus; and

(c) The need to maintain regional peace and stability by refraining from introducing sophisticated weapons into the military arsenal, as also demanded by the latest Security Council resolutions,

which has not only impeded any progress in the talks, but also turned the "inter-communal talks" into a futile exercise.

The claim of the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus to be a non-aligned country when it is already an "Associate Member" of EU and has already started "accession negotiations" with the Union in contravention of the 1959-1960 Zurich and London agreements governing Cyprus and against the rule of law, is a mockery of the principles of non-alignment. It is even more curious to us how the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries can treat this administration as a bona fide member when the Greek Cypriot administration has made it clear that its aspirations are to become an EU member and that if this would cost them their "non-alignment" so be it!

The other paragraphs of the Final Communiqué are so one-sided and detached from reality that they hardly deserve a detailed reply. I will therefore confine myself to reiterating several well-documented fundamental facts without which there can be no correct or impartial analysis of the Cyprus question.

The Cyprus conflict was started by the Greek Cypriots in collusion with Greece in 1963 in order to "hellenize" what was a bi-national island, which was described by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as "the common home of the Greek Cypriot community and of the Turkish Cypriot community". The object was to annex the island to Greece (enosis). The violence unleashed on the Turkish Cypriot community in order to realize enosis was nothing less than an ethnic cleansing campaign which caused untold suffering to the Turkish Cypriot population.

It is sad yet significant to note that the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries which, in the words of one of its leaders, regards itself as "the conscience of mankind", said nothing about the violence and cruel and inhuman treatment meted out to the Turkish Cypriot people at the time, let alone take any action to stop it.

It was only Turkey, acting in conformity with the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960, which undertook effective action to save the Turkish Cypriots from total annihilation and protect the bi-national independence of Cyprus. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries is therefore totally unjustified in criticizing the presence of the Turkish forces in Cyprus, pending a political settlement which would continue to guarantee the security and the very existence of the Turkish Cypriot people in the island of Cyprus.

Demilitarization is a long-term objective which can only be taken up in the context of a political settlement and as envisaged in the relevant paragraph of the United Nations Set of Ideas. In any event, an administration which continues a massive militarization campaign in collaboration with Greece, costing them $2 million per day, including the purchase of the S-300 missile system, cannot possibly be serious about demilitarization. It should also be borne in mind that the Greek Cypriot administration is even refusing the much

more realistic and practical proposals contained in the United Nations package of "deconfrontation" measures, which would help reduce tension along the borders.

Finally, I would like to put on record that it is not the Turkish Cypriot side which is closing the door to dialogue on the basis of true equality. However, it is crystal clear from the decades-long history of the negotiating process that, in order for such dialogue to produce any results, it must be based on the realities prevailing in Cyprus, that is, the existence of two independent, sovereign States in the island. Otherwise, the Greek Cypriot administration will continue to exploit the process of negotiations in order to consolidate and exploit its title as the so-called "Government of Cyprus" to the detriment of the Turkish Cypriot side and of peace and reconciliation in the island.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAŞ
President